

Direct line: 0207 066 8080
Email: foi@fca.org.uk

By email

23 September 2014

Our Ref: FOI3624

Your Ref:

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), for information regarding Tony Hetherington and Grant Thornton.

As you are aware from 1 April 2013, the responsibilities of the Financial Services Authority ("FSA") were split between two new regulators, the Prudential Regulation Authority and the Financial Conduct Authority. For convenience, references in this letter to the FCA are also to its predecessor, the FSA, where appropriate.

I can confirm that we hold information that falls within scope of your request, and I provide comments as follows (following your numbering in italics) :

- 1) Was Tony Hetherington (Mail On Sunday Journalist) employed by the FSA/FCA at any time during the period from 30th of June 2003 until August 22nd 2011? How much money was he paid by the FSA/FCA during this period?*

I can confirm that Tony Hetherington was a member of the Financial Services Consumer Panel from January 2005 to March 2011. The FS Consumer Panel annual report contains details of fees paid to Panel members by the FCA, although individual names are not mentioned. You can access the annual reports for the years 2004/5 to 11/12 here – http://www.fs-cp.org.uk/publications/annual_reports.shtml

However, we are unable to confirm how much he was paid during this period because we consider that it constitutes his personal data and disclosure of this information would breach the Principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. Therefore section 40 (Personal information) applies for the reasons set out in the annex.

- 2) Was the firm Grant Thornton UK LLP employed by the FSA/FCA at any time during the period from 30th of June 2003 until August 22nd 2011? What was it employed to do? How much money was it paid by the FSA/FCA during this period?*

I can confirm that Grant Thornton was engaged by the FCA during the period in question to provide professional services including the provision of audit services, financial/consultancy, investigative/expert witness services and the provision of secondees. £1,463,607.28 (including VAT) was paid to Grant Thornton during this period.

Yours sincerely

Information Access Team

Your right to complain under the FoI Act

If you are unhappy with the decision made in relation to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to exercise this right you should contact us within three months of the date of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Website: www.ico.org.uk

Annex

- **Section 40 (Personal information)**

To the extent that the information that we hold contains personal data about an individual, section 40 (2)(b) of the Act provides that "Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if ... either the first or second condition below (see sections 40(3) and 40(4) of the Act) is satisfied".

We have applied this exemption because the first condition (as stated in section 40(3) of the Act) is satisfied as some of the information requested comprises the personal data of individuals other than yourself, which if disclosed would breach the Principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. It would be a breach of Principle 1 to disclose such information, as it would not be fair to the individual concerned. He has not given consent for this personal data to be made public and the release of such information may be detrimental to him. We do not consider the disclosure of this personal data would be in accordance with one or more conditions in Schedule 3 to the Data Protection Act. Furthermore, we do not consider disclosure would be lawful.